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URBAN AND PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1942.

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TOWN HALL,
GREAT YARMOUTH.

1942.

To the Town Council of the County Borough of Great Yarmouth acting as the Urban and Port Sanitary Authorities.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Fourth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. Again this year, the Report has been cut to the smallest possible dimensions and records only the vital statistics and changes brought about as a result of the War.

On 14th November Dr. H.C. Price was called up for work in the R.A.M.C.

I am pleased to be able to report that the various Clinics, Centres etc., have all been able to function during the past year. Since the call up of Dr. Price the work of the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer has been carried out by myself.

I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, also the Staff of my Department, for their loyal support during the year.

The comparative vital statistics for the year 1942 are shown in the following table:-

| | Gt. Yarmouth. | England & Wales. | London. | 126 Great Towns. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Death Rate per 1000 estimated population | 17.57. | 11.6. | 13. 9. | 13.3. |
| Intantile Death Rate per 1000 live births | 36.24. | 49 | 60 | 59 |
| Birth Rate per 1000 estimated population. | 18.61. | 15. 8. | 14. 0. | 17. 3. |

I am, Mr. Mayor,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. WAINWRIGHT,
Medical Officer of Health.

## HOSPITALS.

The Public Assistance Auxiliary Institution has remained open throughout the year, accommodating 130 patients - others have been placed in neighbouring Institutions.

The Great Yarmouth and Gorleston Hospitals have continued to provide the requirements necessary for the civilian population in addition to the treatment required for air-raid casualties and Service Cases under the Ministry of Health's Emergency Hospital Services.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Borough Isolation Hospital remained open throughout the year.

All Civilian and Service Cases of Infectious Diseases have been accommodated.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In Great Yarmouth Clinics have been held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the Congregational Rooms, Middlegate Street. These premises leave much to be desired, but attempts to find more suitable accommodation have so far been unsuccessful.

A Clinic has been held on Wednesday afternoons at the Old Cottage Hospital, Trafalgar Road, Gorleston. This has been well attended.

The Government National Milk Scheme for Dried Milk has worked satisfactorily, In addition, Cod Liver Oil has been issued for children from birth to 5 years, and Orange Juice or Fruit Juice from birth to 5 years. Mothers have been able to procure Ovaltine, Lactagol and Adexolin,

Diphtheria Immunisation. In accordance with Ministry of Health instructions this work has again been carried out very satisfactorily during the year and the figures show good results of both under five and from five to fifteen years.

Parents have responded well, and the following figures show the number of children who have completed the course from 1st January to 31st December, 1942.

| Under 5 years. | 5 - 15 years. |
|---|---|
| 418 | 346 |

The Ministry of Health arrangements for evacuating expectant mothers to Maternity Homes in safer areas has been continued. 154 mothers have been sent away during the last month of their pregnancy.

During the year 368 ante-natal visits were paid to the Clinic. The total number of children under 5 years of age who attended the Centre during the year, and, who at the end of the year were:-

under 1 year, 386: over 1 year - 404.

## CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

SCARLET FEVER - 20 cases were notified during 1942. The disease continued mild.

DIPHTHERIA - 16 cases were notified during the year; this figure includes both Service and Civilisn cases.

WHOOPING COUGH - 32 cases were notified during the year. There are many parents who do not call in a private doctor - hence only a proportion of cases are notified. 1 death occurred.

MEASLES - 2 cases were notified during the year. As in the case of Whooping Cough there are many cases not seen by a doctor, who will therefore, not be notified.

TUBERCULOSIS - 37 cases of Pulmonary and 9 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Sanatorium accommodation at Kelling and Bramblewood was adequate. 22 cases died during the year- 20 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER - There were 3 cases notified during the year amongst both the Service and Civilian patients. 1 death occurred.

CANCER - There were 60 deaths during the year - a slight decrease over the previous year.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES - In addition to 10 deaths from pneumonia, 17 deaths were returned as attributable to Bronchitis, and 8 to other Respiratory Diseases.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES - 2 cases were recorded among children under 2 years during the year.

MATERNITY MORTALITY - 1 case was recorded as having died from puerperal fever. No cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified.

MALNUTRITION AND UNEMPLOYMENT - Unemployment has continued to decrease. The diet of young children has been augmented by the Government allowance of the following, specially rich in vitamins:-

Cod Liver Oil from birth to 5 years.
Black Currant Puree or Fruit Juice - Birth - 5 years.

In addition all school children can obtain milk during school attendance at a reduced cost, or free.

The scheme for providing school meals was put into operation on 9th September, 1942. It is becomingly increasingly popular with both children and parents.

## TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC.

The Clinics at Yarmouth and Gorleston continued to function as usual during the year. There were 812 attendances in all, including 67 new cases. In addition 280 contacts were examined.

In Yarmouth two Clinics were held each week on Monday and Friday mornings respectively. For the benefit of those at work an additional evening Clinic was held from 6 - 8 p.m. on the first Tuesday in each month. Owing to blackout conditions this particular service was suspended during the winter months. The Gorleston Clinic was held each week on Thursday mornings.

The usual practice of sending patients to Dr. Chalmers of Norwich when an X Ray examination is required has been continued. Those patients undergoing Artificial Pneumothorax treatment have received their refills at Norwich as usual by Dr. Townsley, in the absence of Dr. Falla, on war service.

Extra milk has been supplied free of charge from the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee to those in need of extra nourishment, and are unable for financial reasons to afford it. Cod Liver Oil and Malt has also been supplied.

Clothing was provided in special cases from a fund administered by the Town Clerk, and from the resources of the Women's Voluntary Services. Dental help was also given on the recommendation of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The Tuberculosis Nurse made 1427 domiciliary visits during the year, and 9 Ambulance journeys conveying patients to Sanatoria.

## ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Clinics have been held by Mr. McKee acting for Mr. Brittain, when required. Operation work has been carried out at the General Hospital or Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich. The Convalescent Hospital is still at Cawston Manor, Aylsham.

## VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

Patients requiring treatment attend the Special Clinic at Lowestoft - four sessions are held each week. The records show some increase in the incidence of this disease. In view of this fact, a Local Clinic is considered to be necessary.

## HEALTH VISITORS.

Miss Bird, Senior Health Visitor, returned from the Evacuation Area on 20th July, 1942. Her additional help has been much appreciated.

## MIDWIVES.

The work of the "ad hoc" Joint Committee was taken over by the Health Committee on 9th November, 1942. The following are the figures for the year:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of cases delivered by Midwives | - | 161. |
| Number of births attended by Midwives acting as Maternity Nurses | - | 102. |
| Number of cases delivered outside the town | | 154. |
| Medical assistance sent for by Midwives | - | 42. |

SCABIES.

With reference to Scabies Order 1941. 253 visits have been made by Health Visitors. 1174 children have been examined in school.

Special hot baths are provided at the St. George's and Stradbroke First Aid Posts. Assistance to the Health Department in supervising the work has been given by the Civil Defence Personnel. An average of 40 to 50 cases have been dealt with weekly. In addition an average of 10 intractable cases have been admitted weekly into the Isolation Hospital.

AIR RAID SHELTERS.

The number using Air Raid Shelters has tended to decrease. This is all to the good.

While it must be admitted that many lives have been saved by their use, it is also true from a hygienic point of view that they are unhealthy as permanent bedrooms. Morrison Shelters are much to be preferred.

PEDICULOSIS.

In addition to routine cleanliness surveys of school children by the School Nurses, both Midwives and Health Visitors are using every effort by advice and help, to assist the cases met with in their work.

Sir,

I have pleasure in submitting a resumé report of the work of my Department during the year 1942. I must again remark the very short staff of Inspectors, whilst war conditions have caused much extra work, and have in consequence further curtailed some of the ordinary routine work of the Department.

The investigation of complaints, drain testing and the consequent execution of necessary works and repairs again received full attention.

No samples were examined under the Merchandise Marks Acts, but much was done in the examination of Salvage food stuffs for animal feeding.

Offensive trades received regular attention.

186 Samples were submitted under the Food and Drugs Acts, careful watch being kept on the milk supply. Two prosecutions were instituted for added water and resulted in fines of £3. and 17/6d costs and £2. and 17/6d costs respectively. One for deficiency in fat a fine of £1. and 15/- costs was imposed.
In addition 56 Milk Samples were submitted for examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

The town's water supply was frequently sampled and submitted for analysis (particularly after enemy action) until satisfactory results were obtained.

Of the 16 Slaughterhouses in the Borough only three are now used under the Government Slaughtering Scheme, but in spite of this fact a great deal more slaughtering is being done than in pre-war periods, as we kill in this Borough for a great part of Norfolk. Without extra assistance I am able to report having maintained 100% inspection, whilst again relations with the Government Slaughterhouses staffs have always been most amicable.

Regular inspections were made at the bi-weekly markets, food shops and stores.

37 Samples were taken under the Milk( Special Designations) Order, 1936, and these were found mostly satisfactory and up to standard.

109 houses were condemned under Section 11 of the Housing Act as an emergency measure, but otherwise these activities had regretfully to be curtailed owing to the war.

Much useful work continued under the Rats and Mice Destructions Act in the Borough; in the Port and on Shipboard 1723 Rats are known to have been destroyed.

I am, Sir,
Yours obediently,

G.H. SPINKS.

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING INSPECTED IN THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1942.

TABLE A.

| | Number Inspected. | | Number Reported Defective. | Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied. | Number reported as havin or havin had duri the voya infectio disease board. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | By the M.O.H. | By the Inspector. | | | |
| Total Foreign | 4 | 9 | 1 | 1 | Nil. |
| Total Coastwise | 24 | 38 | 6 | 6 | Nil. |

TABLE C.

Cas es of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

| Disease. | No of cases during 1942. | | No. of vessels concerned. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Passengers. | Crew. | |
| Paratyphoid Fever | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - |
| Chicken Pox | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - |

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

| Disease. | No of cases during 1942. | | No of vessels concerned. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Passengers. | Crew. | |
| - | - | - | - |

V. Measures against Rodents.

No rat-catcher has been appointed especially for the Port, but the Urban rat-catcher acts. Ships in the Port are regarded as houses in the town. In this connection 96 ships were visited by the Rat Officer during the year. There were no ships from plague infected ports. No duly infested ship was found.

## VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

### TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

| Nationality of Vessel. | Number Inspected 1942 | Defects of original construction | Structural defects through wear and tear. | Dirt, vermi and other unhealthy conditions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| British | 62 | - | 7 | 8 |
| Other Nations | 13 | - | - | - |

BILGE PUMPING - Bills are posted drawing attention to the above offence, and masters and engineers of vessels cautioned.

### CANAL BOAT ACTS.

During the year 6 boats were inspected, and these were generally found to be very clean and well kept, and in no case were there female or children permanently residing on board.

There has again been no case of sickness on board a canal boat during the year.

### REGISTRATION MATTERS.

There were no fresh registrations during the year, most of the boats in this district now register under the Merchant Shipping Acts.

## BLIND PERSONS ACTS 1920 & 1938.

## HOME TEACHER'S REPORT.

### For the year ended 31st December, 1942.

The administration in connection with the Blind Persons Act has met with many difficulties, and the work has had to be divided into two sections, i.e. at the Evacuation Centre Burnham Hall and amongst the Blind Persons remaining in the Borough.

The statistical particulars are given below, the age groups also being shown:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Number of Registered Blind December 1942 | | 193. |
| Number of New Cases during the year | | 18. |
| | | 211. |
| Number of Deaths during the year | 13. | |
| Number of Removals from District | 3. | |
| Number of Cases De-certified | 5. | 21. |
| | | 190. |

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under 5 years | - | - | - |
| Between 5 and 16 years | - | 2 | 2. |
| " 16 and 21 " | 2 | 1 | 3. |
| " 21 and 50 " | 16 | 15 | 31. |
| " 50 and 70 " | 45 | 43 | 88. |
| Over 70 years " | 31 | 35 | 66. |
| | 94 | 96 | 190. |

One child is receiving Elementary Education at the East Anglian School. Two persons are employed at the Norwich Institution for the Blind. One has been transferred to the Royal Midland Institution for the Blind, Bradford. Also one copyist is attached to the National Library for the Blind.

In March 1942, Mrs. Clay who has been in charge of the Hostel at Burnham Hall was recalled to the Institution for the Blind, Norwich. As a result of this, Mr. & Mrs. Davies were appointed to take charge in the early part of April.

This arrangement meant that Miss Howe was able to resume her former duties in the Borough, thus releasing Miss Freeman, who had acted in a temporary capacity as Welfare Officer for the Blind during her absence.

Following enemy action in one of our neighbouring cities, we were pleased to be able to proffer help by finding accommodation for many of those rendered homeless at the Evacuation Hostel.

Application has been made for the State Pension on behalf of 4 persons, and during the year 13 applications were considered for the Corporation Allowance. At the end of the year there were 105 recipients of the Corporation Allowance.

In May the Council decided to increase the Allowance to Blind Persons by the following additions for the duration of the war:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| For single blind persons ... ... ... ... | 3/6d | weekly. |
| For man and wife (both being blind) ... ... ... | 5/- | " |
| For a blind person with one sighted dependent .. ... | 5/- | " |
| For each additional sighted adult dependent ... ... | 3/6d | " |
| For each sighted dependent child under 16 years of age . | 2/6d | " |

It is gratifying to note that the amount collected at the annual Flag Day was increased from £107.17. 0d to £175. 12. 0d.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS.

1913 - 1938.

Supervision Officer's Report.

For the year ended 31st December, 1942.

Miss Redhead submits her Fourth Annual Report of work under the above Acts.

18 new cases have been added to the Register, a number of these being cases referred by Evacuation Authorities, requiring Institutional accommodation, and for whom this Authority is responsible.

1 case at Besford Court Residential School has now on attaining the age of 16 years been certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

1 Case has been certified and admitted to St. Teresa's Home, Dockenfield, Farnham Surrey.

2 cases have died in Little Plumstead Hall during the year.

Suitable accommodation has been found for cases referred by Education Committees requiring Special School training. Three girls have been sent to Llansantffraed Court Special School, and two boys to Ogmore Camp School, Bridgend. All these have been evacuated under the Ministry's Scheme for evacuated Mentally Defective Children.

Owing to war conditions it has been rather difficult to keep a check on the movements of those in the town. There are now 79 on the Register and 67 in Institutions.

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

Again owing to war conditions there is nothing to report in connection with the Occupation Centre.

There are still 11 evacuees staying at Little Plumstead as a 'place of safety'. As this was, however, only a temporary war measure, it will become necessary early in the New Year for these patients to be certified under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

SOCIAL EVENTS.

It has not been possible owing to war conditions to arrange any Social Events or Outings during the year.

All cases residing in the Borough have been visited by the Supervision Officer. A total of 200 visits having been made. The ascertainment of new cases and the following up of consequent particulars concerning them have been dealt with.

Miss Redhead has again during the year given help in the general duties of the Health Department.